

T Plant gets crucial equipment for handling K Basins sludge

The T Plant complex has several important roles in Hanford's cleanup mission. It treats, verifies and repackages contact-handled waste, samples waste drums, decontaminates equipment and stores irradiated fuel assemblies from the Shippingport pressurized water reactor.

To prepare for one of its most crucial upcoming missions, the 850-foot-long T Plant Canyon Building is being prepared for the receipt and storage of radioactive sludge from the K Basins, scheduled to begin arriving at the plant next January. The work is a joint effort of Fluor Hanford's Spent Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Projects.

The sludge will be held in steel containers in at least four T Plant cells. Some crucial equipment for the handling and storage of the sludge has arrived and is being staged, and a photographer was on hand to capture the event for the *Reach*.



Fluor Federal Services ironworker Mike Aldrich (in striped vest) and boilermaker Jim Smith signal Fluor Federal Services crane operator Brian Lotze as a huge leveling frame is loaded onto a truck at Hanford's 200 West Area construction yard for delivery to T Plant. A cell liner assembly sits in the foreground. The tall section in the center of the liner is a 13-foot-high leak-detection and pump riser. Four such leveling frames and secondary containment liner assemblies have been constructed to fit into T Plant cells as part of equipment that will hold K Basins sludge.



Jim Smith hooks lifting devices to the leveling frame base in the T Plant tunnel in preparation for moving the 4-foot-tall, 176-square-foot frame into the canyon.



Ray Darby (foreground) talks via radio to Fluor Hanford operator Mike Yencopal in T Plant's bridge crane cab, while Mike Downing holds a tag line on a liner as it is moved down the T Plant Canyon to a storage location.



From left, FFS ironworkers Ray Darby and Mike Downing and laborer Jim Cockrum (holding pole), prepare to move a frame onto the T Plant canyon deck. Each frame weighs about 5,500 pounds, and each liner assembly weighs 13,700 pounds.



much of T Plant's staff and FFS construction building trades personnel, face a busy year. They will be installing, leveling and bracing the frames, installing cable trays, conduit and wiring for leak-detection systems, putting in controls and cameras for sludge monitoring and performing many other readiness tasks.